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**STAFF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS ON CALIFORNIA'S NONPOINT SOURCE (NPS)
POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM**



State Water
Resources
Control Board

**Division of
Water Quality**

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Staffs of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Coastal Commission (CCC) are working together to upgrade California's NPS Pollution Control Program for the protection of water quality and to comply with requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA). Staffs are holding two public workshops and invite your comments and questions on the Draft NPS Pollution Control Plan (Draft Plan): *Volume I: Nonpoint Source Program Strategy and Implementation: 1998-2013* and *Volume II: California Management Measures for Polluted Runoff* (CAMMPR). Copies of the Draft Plan and CAMMPR were sent to you on July 2, 1999. The workshops will be held in Los Angeles on July 19, 1999 and in Sacramento on July 20, 1999. The agenda with the locations for the workshops is enclosed for your information.

Registration

We appreciate your participation and support in this effort. To reserve a space at one of these meetings, please contact Cy Oggins, CCC, by July 16, 1999 at: <coggins@coastal.ca.gov> (e-mail) or 415/904-5249 (voice mail).

Background

Degradation of water resources from NPS pollution is considered to be the leading cause of water quality impairments nationally, as well as in California. Most NPS problems are related to land use practices. Therefore, to address these problems, various State, federal, and local agencies, as well as landowners and non-governmental groups, are involved with many efforts to reduce and prevent NPS pollution. These efforts are often supported by and coordinated through the State's NPS Pollution Control Program (Program) under the SWRCB and Regional Water Quality Control Boards and through the CCC's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

The California NPS Program was established over ten years ago in response to the requirements of federal CWA section 319(h). The goals of current efforts are to upgrade the Program consistent with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance and to ensure that it effectively addresses nonpoint sources affecting coastal waters as required by CZARA. Members of your organization may have had a role in the State's initial response to CZARA which was submitted to the USEPA and the National Oceanic and



California Coastal
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Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in September 1995. CZARA requires California to “develop and implement management measures for NPS pollution to restore and protect coastal waters” More recently, the President’s Clean Water Action Plan called on all states to upgrade their NPS programs in order to be eligible for additional funding in federal fiscal year 2000 and beyond.

Finding solutions to NPS pollution poses unique challenges. While increased use of existing regulatory authorities can help us address certain categories of NPS pollution (such as the relatively recent effort to permit the most significant municipal storm water discharges), California recognizes that to effectively address NPS pollution we will need to rely on a wide range of tools, activities, and authorities. In particular, these efforts need to focus on better integration and coordination at the State level and collaborative approaches to establish ongoing community-based stewardship. We ask that you join us in this important effort.

If you have any questions, the staff persons most knowledgeable on this subject are Steve Fagundes, SWRCB, at 916/657-0914 and Cy Oggins, CCC, at 415/904-5249. You may also call Gwen Starrett (Chief, Nonpoint Source Unit), SWRCB, at 916/657-0518.

Sincerely,

Ken Harris, Chief
Nonpoint Source Section
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board

Jaime C. Kooser, Deputy Director
Energy, Ocean Resources, and Water Quality
California Coastal Commission

Enclosure

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